(d) and (e) The concerned oil company has not received any complaint regarding adulteration or short delivery against M/s Soami Service Station, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi.

Mixing of Kerosene in Petrol

†113. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Kerosene is being widely mixed in petrol and diesel;

(b) whether it is a fact that inspite of heavy increase in gas consumers in urban areas the demand of kerosene is still increasing; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken by Governemnt to check adulteration and to extend benefit of this scheme to the really needy persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Kerosene is an allocated product and the annual/monthly allocation is made by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to States/UTs. The distribution of kerosene and its monitoring within the State is the responsibility of concerned State Govt. PDS kerosene and LPG are subsidised products. Central Govt. has insisted upon State Governments to identify the ration card holders having LPG connection and delete their names from the ration cards which entitles them PDS kerosene.

(c) Oil marketing companies carry out regular/surprise checks of retail outlets, to control various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, sepcial drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. To prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (PDS), furfural doping, filter paper test, stock

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

reconciliation, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are taken by oil companies.

Checking Deficit in Oil Pool Account

†114. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that deficit in Oil Pool is continuously increasing despite heavy increase in price of diesel;

(b) if so, the latest position in this regard; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to check this deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The cumulative outstandings of the oil companies from the Oil Pool Account are estimated to be around Rs. 6,000 crores as on 31.3.2000.

(c) The position of the Oil Pool Account is monitored on a continuous basis and remedial measures taken to contain the deficit.

Regularisation of Contract Employees with Diploma Degrees

115. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to answer to Starred Question No. 271 given in the Rajya Sabha on 16th December, 1999 and state:

(a) whether EIL have regularised the services of several contract employees/daily wage employees having diploma in engineering after the presentation of Third and Fourth Pay Commission Reports; and

(b) if so, the details of such appointments, year-wise with service conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.